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1/6/72

Director of Information
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

This is to appeal the refusal to me of a number of items of Warren Commission materials for which I have asked in writing, copies of which the Archivist refuses, in his letter of January 4, 1972, to forward to you as my appeal.

You will find that I have repeated some of these requests and have not gotten any responses in some cases, meaningless responses in other, and palpable untruths in others. In still other cases, it is transparent that my requests are just being ignored. I believe all these things violate the intent of the Congress, if not the law.

I know because inadvertently in the past the wrong copies of internal copies of my requests have been sent to me that there is a policy on the time in which response was to be made. My request for this information is among the things denied me, so I ask it of you. How long after a simple inquiry is it to be answered?

So you can better understand that this is not frivolous, On July 24, 1971, I asked for copies of certain specified pages of CD 1408. I never got them or any answer. When I asked for them again in my letter of December 17, 1971, they were not provided. Instead I was told "If you will specify the pages in Commission Document 1408 of which you want copies, we will be pleased to furnish these copies to you." In that same letter I renewed an unfilled request for a copy of the description of film provided to the Secret Service by WDSU-TV, New Orleans (a copy of which was also provided me by that station). Instead of in any way answering this proper and simple request, for a copy of a single sentence, I was sent copies of my letter to the Secret Service and its ~~xxxx~~ letter of December 22, 1969 to the Archivist. This is deliberately non-responsive.

Recently, the Attorney General has ruled that such non-responsiveness constitutes a refusal. I also so interpret it. This is also true of other denials and evasions, such as you will find in my requests for copies of withheld Warren Commission executive sessions. The more recent of my letters on the latter are dated August 22 and September 18, 1971.

So, I herewith appeal all these and the other refusals of which the Archives has copies and all those requests not responded to. The Attorney General's Memorandum on the Freedom of Information law specifies that "Every effort should be made to avoid encumbering the applicant's path with procedural obstacles." I hope you will recognize this as binding and not require that I be put to the extra cost and waste of time of providing copies of these requests and the answers, which the Archives has. I also hope you will recognize the intent of Congress in specifying "promptness", which is true in no case referred to herein, that of the still-unfilled request of last July being an illuminating and not-untypical example.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg